
REPORT TO: COMMUNITY SERVICES
COMMITTEE

AGENDA ITEM: 9

DATE OF MEETING: 23 AUGUST 2001

CATEGORY:
DELEGATED

REPORT FROM: SANDRA WHILES

OPEN
PARAGRAPH NO: N/A

MEMBERS' CONTACT POINT: MARK ALFLAT
EXT 5716

DOC: s:\cent_serv\committee
reports\community services\23 aug
2001\redesignation of eh officer post.doc

SUBJECT: REDESIGNATION OF
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH
OFFICER POST TO
SCIENTIFIC OFFICER

REF: MEA/LJW

WARD(S) AFFECTED: ALL

TERMS OF REFERENCE: CS5

1.0 Recommendations

- 1.1 That the vacant post of Environmental Health Officer in the Pollution Control Section of the Environmental Health Division be deleted and the post of Scientific Officer be established.
- 1.2 That the advertised level of salary for the post is SO1.

2.0 Purpose of Report

- 2.1 To request Members redesignate the vacant Environmental Health Officer post in the Pollution Control Section to Scientific Officer at a salary of SO1.

3.0 Detail

- 3.1 The vacant post of Environmental Health Officer in the Pollution Control Section of the Environmental Health Division has been advertised on three separate occasions and no suitable candidate has been forthcoming.
- 3.2 A national shortage of Environmental Health Officers exists and it is unlikely that further advertisements will prove fruitful at this time.
- 3.3 The post has therefore been reviewed by the Divisional Environmental Health Manager and the proposed way forward to fill the vacant post is to redesignate the post to that of Scientific Officer. On consulting other local authorities who have advertised such a post, there has been no shortage in applications coming forward. Duties to the Environmental Health Officer post will be very similar and, in addition, it is hoped that a person with a scientific background will be able to aid the Council in the implementation of the contaminated land strategy work.
- 3.4 Complaint numbers and associated requests have continued to rise and it is vital to fill the post as soon as possible.

3.5 Personnel have evaluated the post as being suitable to advertise anywhere between Scale 6 and PO1. It is felt that by advertising at SO1, a good response will be achieved to the post when advertised.

4.0 Financial Implications

4.1 Successful recruitment to the post on SO1 will mean a saving, when compared to PO1 for Environmental Health Officer grade, of £2,370 per annum at current salary rates.

5.0 Community Implications

5.1 Being able to recruit and bring the Pollution Section up to establishment will mean better response times to complaints and considerably easing the existing pressure on the Pollution Control Section.

6.0 Background Papers

6.1 None.